ARTICLES EXHIBITED IN PARLIAMENT AGAINST WILLIAM ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, 1640.

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Articles of the Commons assembled in Parliament, in maintenance of the accusation, whereby WILLIAM LAUD Arch-Bishop of Canterbury, stands charged with high Treason.

I.

THat the said *William Laud*, Archbishop of *Canterbury*, hath traiterously laboured to subvert the fundamentall Lawes and Government of the Kingdome, by giving his Majestie advice privately, and at Councell Table, High Commission, and in other places said, that he would have them governed by Civill Lawes, and further said, he would make the proudest subject in the Kingdome to give way to him; and being told it was against Law, he replied he would make it Law, and that the King might at his owne pleasure take away without Law, and make it warrantable by Gods Law.

II.

His countenancing of Books & their Authours for the maintenance of his unlimited and absolute power, wherein the power of the Parliament is denied, and the Bishops power of Prelacie set up.

III.

That he traiterously went about to interrupt the Judges by his threatnings, and other meanes, to constraine them to give false Judgement in the case of Ship-money, as will appeare both by writings, and his hand, by testimony of divers persons of good worth and quality.

IV.

That he hath taken bribes, and sold Justice in the high Commission Court, as Archbishop, and hath not onely corrupted the Judges there, but hath also sold Judicious places to be corrupted.

V.

That he hath endeavoured the encroachment of Jurisdiction and institution of Canons, which are not onely unlawfull, but prejudiciall to the subject; and that he hath exercised his authority very cruelly, both as a Chancellour, Commissioner, and Judge.

VI.

That he hath traiterously assumed a capitall power over his Majesties subjects, denying

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ing his power of Prelacy as from the King.

VII.

That by falſe erronious doctrines, and other ſiniſter wayes and meanes, he went about to ſubvert Religion eſtabliſhed in this Kingdome, and to ſet up Papiſtry and ſuperſtition in the Church.

VIII.

That by undue meanes and practices he hath gotten into his hands the power of nominating of Miniſters to ſpirituall promotions, and hath preſerved none but ſcandalous Miniſters thereunto, and hath preferred corrupt Chaplains to his Majeſty.

IX.

That his owne Miniſters, as *Heywood*, *Neyfield*, and others, are notoriouſly diſaffected to Religion.

X.

That he hath endeavoured to reconcile us to the Church of Rome, and to that end hath employed a Jeſuite and a Papiſt, and hath wrought with the Popes Agent in ſeverall points.

XI.

That to ſuppreſſe preaching, he hath ſuſpended divers good men, and hath uſed unlawfull meanes, by Letters, and otherwiſe, to ſeverall Biſhops to ſuppreſſe them.

XII.

That hee hath traiterously endeavoured to suppresse the French Religion here amongst us, which is the same that we are of; and the Dutch Church, and to set division between them and us.

XIII.

That he hath traiterously endeavoured to set division betweene the King and the subjects, and hath gone about to bring in Innovations into the Church, and hath induced the King to warre with the Scots, and many upon their death beds to give towards the maintenance of the warre; and hath caused the Clergy to give freely towards the same. And hath brought in many superstitions and innovations into the Church of Scotland; And that he procured the King to breake the pacification, whereby to cause a bloody warre betweene the two Kingdomes.

XIV.

That to preserve himselfe from being questioned for these and other his traiterous designes, from the first yeare of his Majesties reigne till now, he hath laboured to subvert the rites of Parliamentary proceedings, and to incense his Majesty against Parliaments.

By all which Words, Councels and Actions, hee hath traiterously laboured to

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alienate the hearts of the Kings liege peolpe from his Majeſty, to ſet diviſion betweene them; and to ruine and deſtroy his Majeſties Kingdomes, for which they impeach him of High Treaſon againſt our Soveraigne Lord the King, his Crowne and Dignity.

And the ſaid Commons by Proteſtations, ſaving to themſelves the liberty of exhibiting at any time hereafter, any other accuſation or impeachment againſt the ſaid *William Laud* Archbiſhop of *Canterbury*, and alſo of replying to the anſwers that he the ſaid Archbiſhop ſhall make unto the ſaid Articles, or to any of them; and of offering proofes alſo of the premiſſes, or any of them, or any other impeachment or accuſation that ſhall be exhibited by them, as the cauſe ſhall, according to the courſe of Parliaments require, doe pray that hee the ſaid *William Laud*, Archbiſhop of *Canterbury* may bee put ſpeedily to anſwer for all and every the Premiſſes, that ſuch proceedings, Examinations, Trials and Judgements, may be upon every of them had and uſed, as is agreeable to Law and Juſtice.

FINIS.